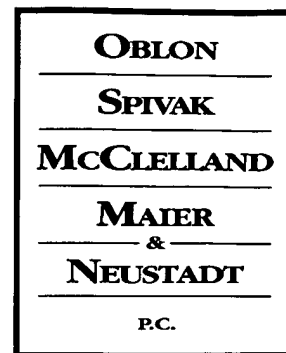




Docket No.: 243352US2SRD DIV



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/675,947

Applicants: Masahiro OSHIKIRI, et al.

Filing Date: October 2, 2003

For: BACKGROUND NOISE/SPEECH CLASSIFICATION
METHOD, VOICED/UNVOICED CLASSIFICATION
METHOD AND BACKGROUND NOISE DECODING
METHOD, AND SPEECH ENCODING METHOD
AND APPARATUS

Group Art Unit: 2655

Examiner: McFADDEN, Susan I.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

Response to Restriction Requirement

Our credit card payment form in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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DOCKET NO. 243352US2SRD DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
MASAHIRO OSHIKIRI, ET AL. : EXAMINER: MCFADDEN, SUSAN I.
SERIAL NO: 10/675,947 :
FILED: OCTOBER 2, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2655
FOR: BACKGROUND NOISE/SPEECH :
CLASSIFICATION METHOD,
VOICED/UNVOICED CLASSIFICATION
METHOD AND BACKGROUND NOISE
DECODING METHOD, AND SPEECH
ENCODING METHOD AND APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the restriction requirement stated in the Official Action dated February 7, 2006, Applicants point out that with the Divisional Application papers filed on October 2, 2003, a Preliminary Amendment was also filed. The Preliminary Amendment canceled claims 1-11, and 19, leaving only Claims 12-18 and 20-25, which correspond to Group III claims indicated in the outstanding Restriction Requirement, pending in the present application. Thus, no election is necessary, as only Group III claims are pending in the present application.

Application No. 10/675,947
Reply to Office Action of February 7, 2006

Accordingly, examination on the merits of Claims 12-18 and 20-25 is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SRIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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